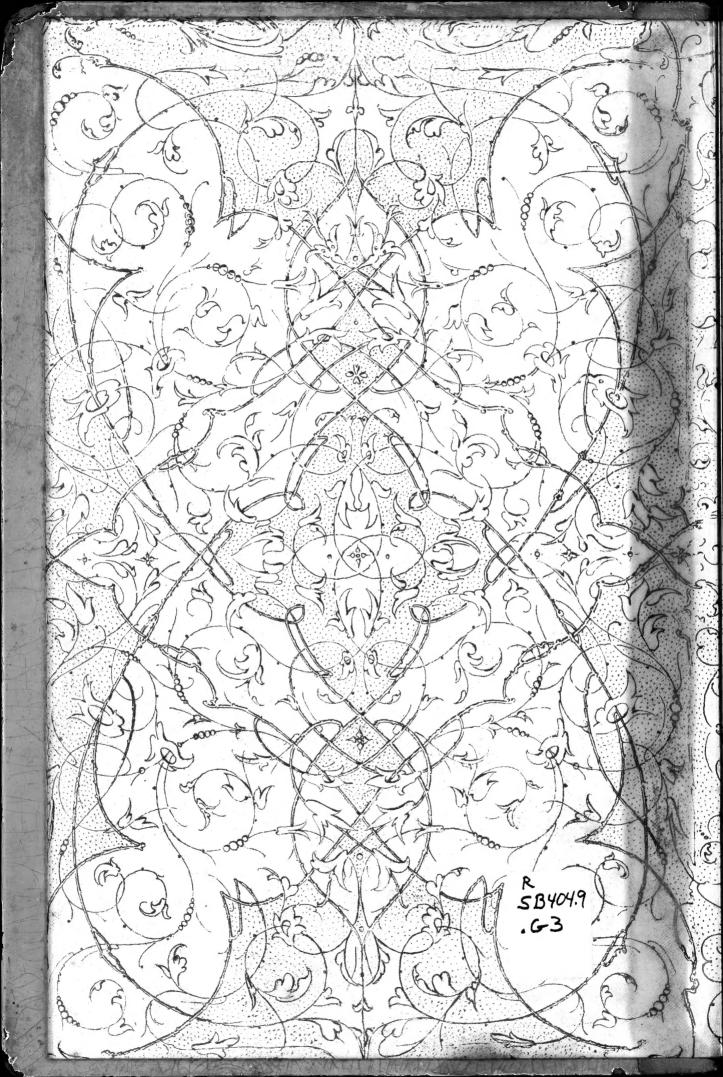
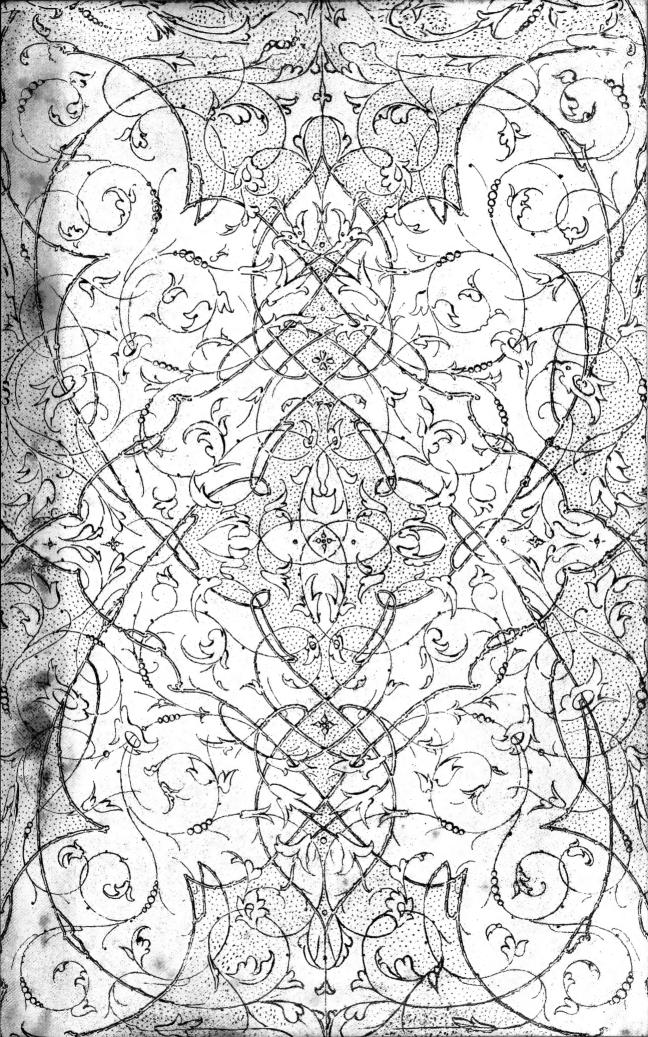
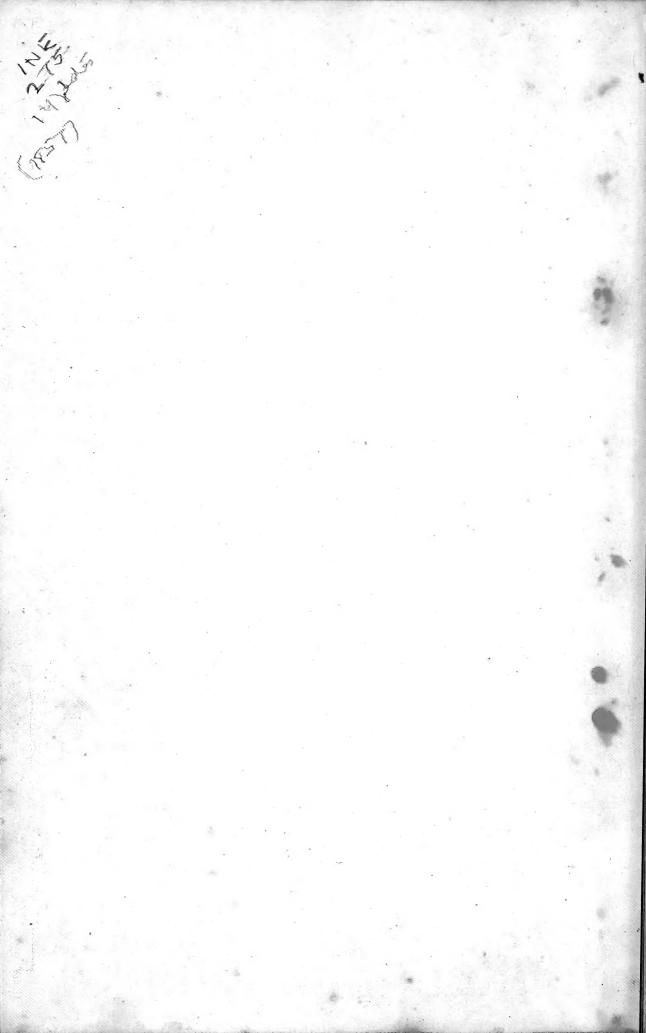
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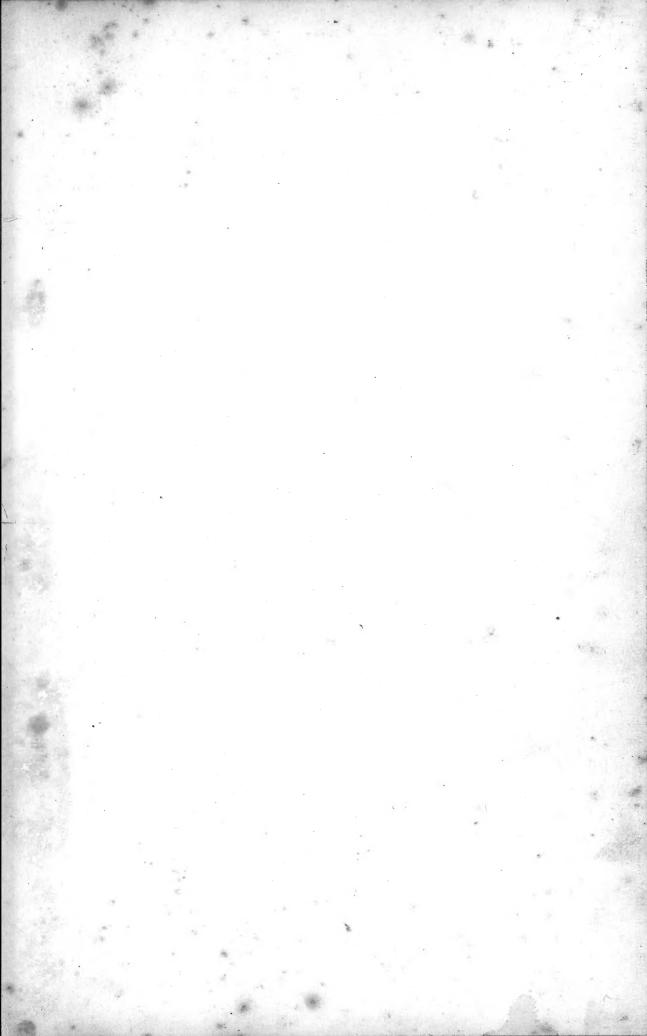
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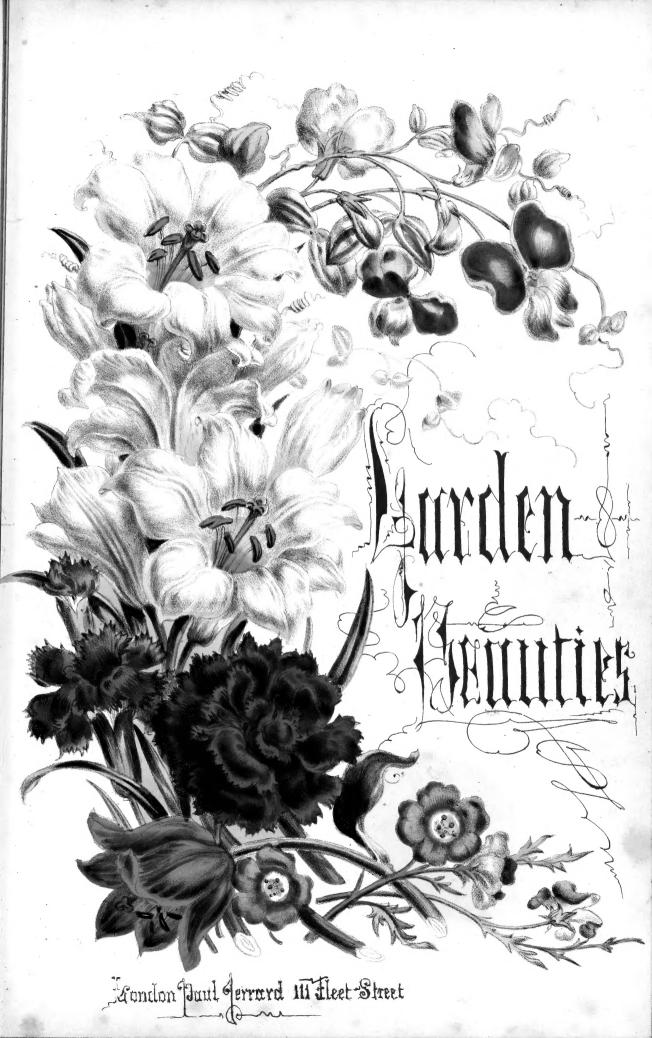












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Z.W. MOITABIARA **ELOXINIA** GERANIUM CARDEN IRIS ANEMONE THE THE HOLLYHOCK AUBICULA maricold_ 110 FOXGLOYE _ 12 COMPANULA GLADIOLUS _ 13 RECOCOENDRON 14

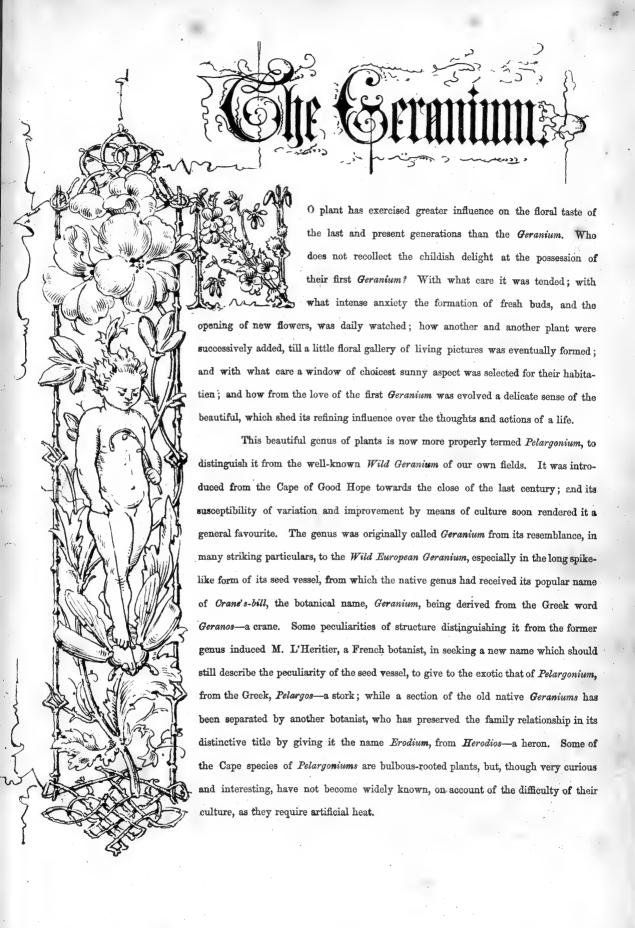




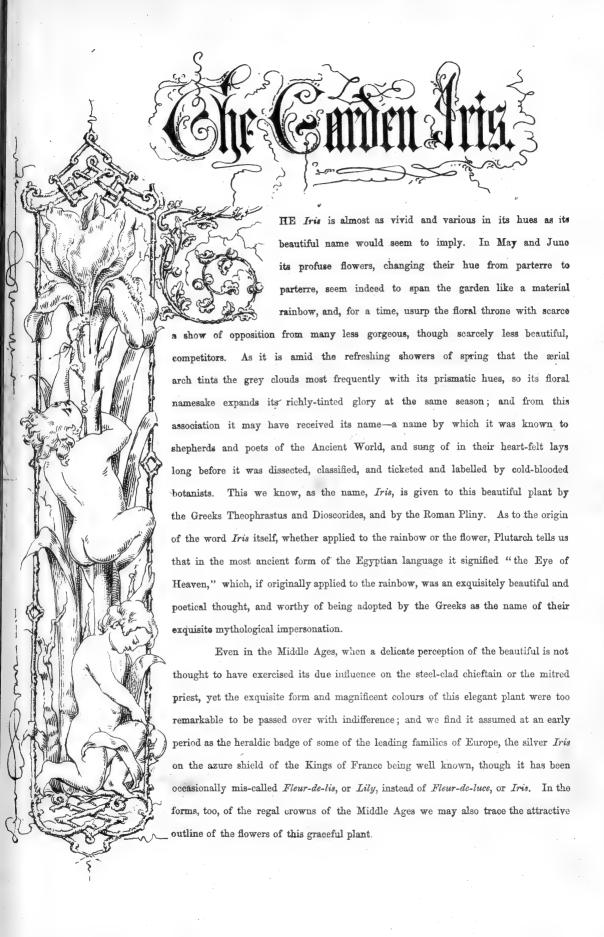
Several species of Gloxinia are now in very general cultivation, but it is only under the protection of glass, and with the aid of artificial heat, that they can be made to put forth their finely-formed flowers with all their native luxuriance. If a hardy species could be raised, it would be indeed a glorious acquisition to the flower garden;

guished botanist, Benjamin Peter Gloxin, of Colmar, Author of "Observationes Botanica," and other works. Gloxinia Speciosa is a favourite in every hothouse, and has exercised the dexterity of many a pencil in the delineation of its beauties. White, Pink, and Spotted-stalked varieties are known; and, by means of hybridisation, many new varieties are continually being produced. One of the leading florists of the metropolis has just advertised a new hybrid variety, to which he gives the name Gloxinia Imperialis, which he describes as bearing a large, bold, and splendid flower.

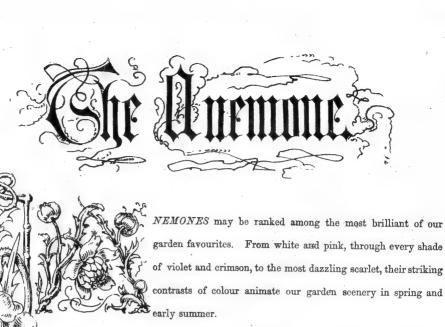












How wonderful is the transition from the black lump or shrivelled tubor, which we place in the ground to the gorgeous flower which it sends forth from its dark abode in the earth! It calls to mind the brightly-painted butterfly bursting from the confinement of the dark and motionless chrysalis. Both appear beautiful types of resurrection to a more brilliant existence; and this idea suggested to the Greeks some of the most graceful of their mythological fables. Thus, the soul was represented by the exquisitely beautiful impersonation of Pysche wearing the wings of a butterfly; and the death of the young and beautiful was deprived of its mournful character by their fancied resurrection in the forms of delicate flowers, as in the case of Narcissus and Hyacinthus.

The White Anemone, with its broad marks of deep crimson, is the flower said to have sprung from the spot ensanguined by the violent death of the fair-skinned Adonis, and is also known by the name of "Flos Adonis," or "The Flower of Adonis;" a name now confined to a small scarlet species, recently classed with another genus. The garden varieties of the Anemone seem to convey the idea of a plant belonging to a warm region and to sheltered situations, but these are not the conditions under which these plants are found in their wild state; they delight in situations exposed to the rudest blasts of winter, putting forth their blossoms amid the keenest winds of March; indeed, their botanical name is derived from the Greek word Anemos—wind. The beautiful Campagna of Rome is literally covered with the blossoms of the Alpine Anemone in the months of March and April.







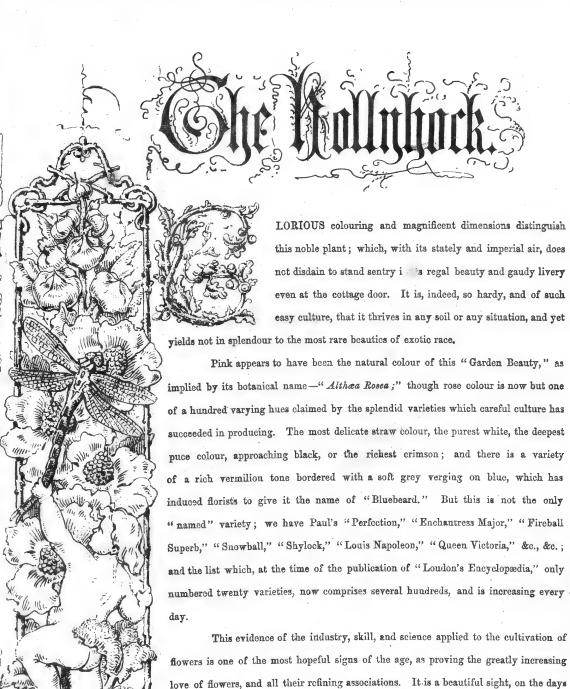
ANY flowers have at different epochs in the history of floriculture occupied the exclusive attention of enthusiastic amateurs, but none with the same absorbing interest as that once exercised by the *Tulip*.

Our native wild Yellow Tulip had been at an early period, under another name, transferred from our fields to our gardens; and other species, such as the sweet-scented Van Thol, common in the south of Europe, were doubtless occasionally cultivated as garden flowers in Italy and Spain. But it was not till the Asiatic Tulip was introduced from Persia that the plant became interesting to florists, or was, indeed, known by that name. The great Red Tulip of Persia was, in its native country, known as the Thoulyban; and our popular "Tulip," and the botanical "Tulipa," are both names derived from the aboriginal appellation of the Persian species, as was the old French name, "Tulipan." It was first brought to Europe in 1559, and, when scientifically classed, it was named "Tulipa Gesneriana," after the Swiss botanist, Gesner, better known as the Author of the "Death of Abel."

Within a century after its first importation this plant had become an important article of trade in Holland—the first flower that, merely for its beauty, ever became an article of commercial importance. Indeed, its susceptibility of change under special cultivation soon enabled the Dutch cultivators to produce such magnificent varieties that *Tulips* became a fashionable rage, and the Dutch exported them to all parts of Europe, some of the rarer varieties producing enormous—even fabulous—prices, as much as £500 sterling having been demanded and received for a single root.

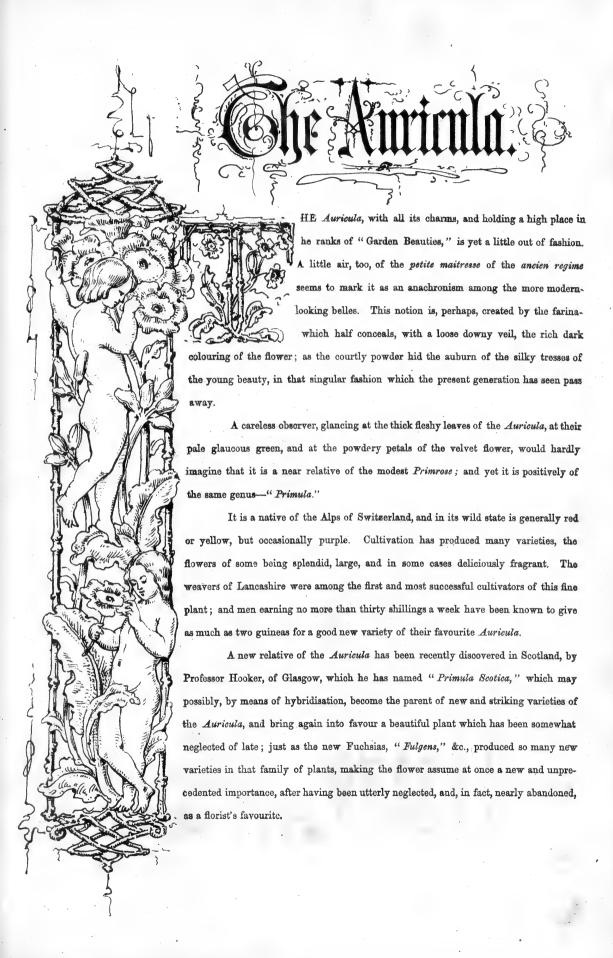
The ingenious Novelist, Alexandre Dumas, has made the tulip mania the subject of one of his most popular Romances—"The Black Tulip;" and the annals of floriculture are full of extraordinary anecdotes respecting the tulipomania, this mania has, however, long passed away.





This evidence of the industry, skill, and science applied to the cultivation of flowers is one of the most hopeful signs of the age, as proving the greatly increasing love of flowers, and all their refining associations. It is a beautiful sight, on the days of flower sales at the Auction Mart, to watch the crowd of purchasers of all classes coming forth with their carefully-packed bundles of plants; there is the cart of the laundress, with a porter busily employed in attaching to the clothes-baskets a few rare standard roses—a weaver, or some other mechanic, comes forth with two or three pots of rare picotees, from which he can scarcely raise his eyes, even to steer his way through the crowd; and others similarly laden.









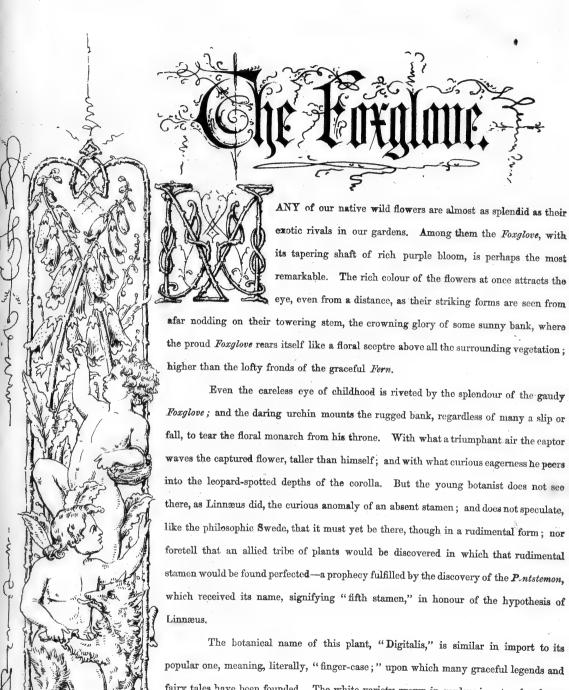
RIMARY among ancient garden favourites is the rank held by the *Marigold*, and with good reason; for wherever it has once been introduced no culture is necessary to preserve it. It sheds its seed so profusely, that after all the digging, and raking, and hoeing, and clearing, a healthy plant of *Marigold* is sure to

spring up in some snug corner. There it puts forth its rich orange or scarlet flowers so early in the season that it has few rivals, thus making friends with us before the more tardy beauties of the parterre exhibit their charms, and it has become an old friend and favourite before its rarer and more splendid rivals are known, and, as an old friend, it is not to be neglected or forsaken for newer claims, however splendid. It keeps flowering on, too, regardless of more pretentious flowers, and is not to be put down by grand names, or exotic tints, or Eastern perfumes.

The gay Marigold comes uninvited, and expands its gay flowers to the sun in cottage gardens where the luxury of flowers was before unknown. A sly seed insinuates itself among some turnip or cabbage seed, and comes up so quietly and so modestly that it remains unperceived, till, in the sunshine of some April day, it suddenly expands two or three of its bright flowers, and the cottage garden is made gay. The Marigold seems to follow the industry of man; and wherever he establishes his garden, however humble, there she is ready to embellish it with her smiling face.

The Marigold received its botanical name, "Calendula," because it is found in flower in the Calends of each month—in short, all the year round. The species called "Pluviales," is so termed because it closes on the approach of rain; and this plant has hence become an object of interest in rural districts, as a kind of floral barometer. The "Mesenbryanthernums" have been termed Fig Marigolds, from the resemblance of their flowers to those of the Marigold, and on account of the seed-vessel resembling in form the fruit of the fig tree.



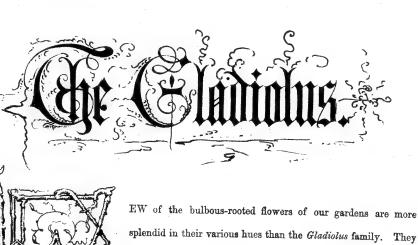


The botanical name of this plant, "Digitalis," is similar in import to its popular one, meaning, literally, "finger-case;" upon which many graceful legends and fairy tales have been founded. The white variety grown in gardens is not so handsome as the purple monarch of the woods, whose supremacy is not even shaken by any of the foreign species of "Digitalis," though some of them are beautiful, and others very singular, plants. The species found in the Canary Islands is of a bright straw colour, bordering on yellow, the flowers of which are gracefully formed; and a species common to the South of Europe has smaller flowers of pale lilac, but is yet a beautiful plant.









EW of the bulbous-rooted flowers of our gardens are more splendid in their various hues than the *Gladiolus* family. They have been termed "Cornflags," from the close resemblance which the flower-buds, at a certain period of their developement, bear to an ear of wheat. The common Scarlet Cornflag was

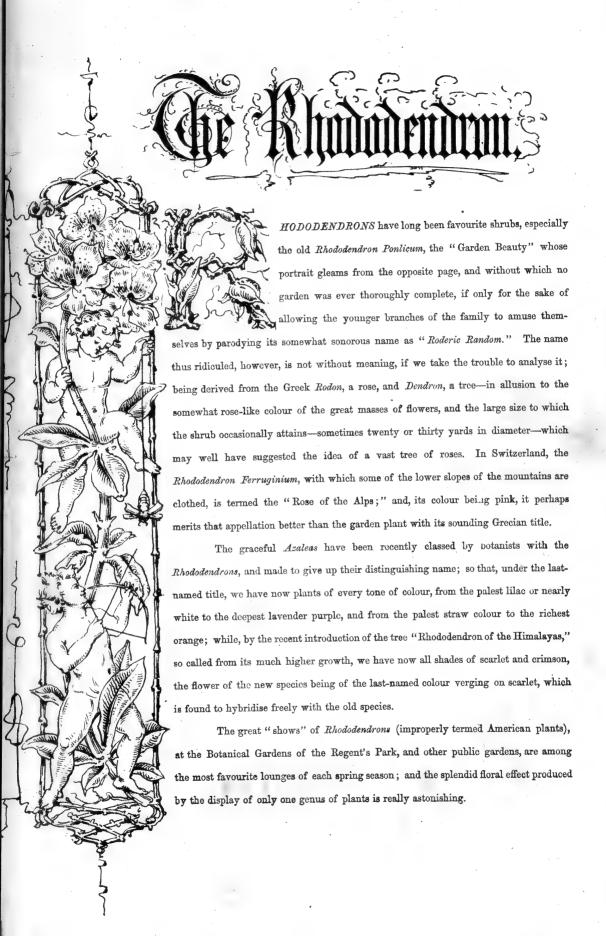
a general favourite in our gardens long before the introduction of the various splendid species of *Gladiolus* which now form such magnificent objects in our parterres, most of which are natives of the Cape of Good Hope, but nearly hardy in our climate.

Among these, the subject of the floral portrait on the opposite page, Gladiolus Cardinalis, and the species called Gladiolus Psittacinus, or "Parrot Gladiolus," are, perhaps, the most splendid; though the more recent variety—Gladiolus Ramosus, and other new species, are highly worthy of cultivation.

The botanical name, Gladiolus, is derived from the Latin Gladius—a sword, in allusion to the blade-like form of the leaves of this genus of plants. The term might, however, be given to the whole "Flag" tribe, especially some of the tuberous-rooted "Irises." But the leaves of the Gladiolus are somewhat sharper at the point than those of any other kind of "Flag;" and when they first appear, about the middle of April, their form really might suggest to an imaginative observer the idea of points of swords issuing from the earth; not only from the sharpness of the point, but from their resemblance to the form of the blade of that weapon.

Some very fine contrasts of colour might be produced in gardens by a judicious selection of different species of this family, as they vary from light lavender tones to pure white, and from delicate pinks to deep oranges and scarlets. But their capacities as splendid garden flowers are at present hardly known; and it is certain that a better acquaintance with their fine qualities cannot fail to make them as popular as the *Tulip*, the *Iris*, or any other of our choicest garden favourites.







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